

Meteor

Heraut

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Quick Read

Benelux

AAFES hosts 110th birthday celebration

Mainz Kastel—Beginning July 23, AAFES stores throughout the world, will honor the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's 110th anniversary with a wide



variety of sales, promotions and sweepstakes. Prizes during the three-day celebration will range from candy bars to a 2005 Chevy Cobalt.

According to AAFES Europe Commander Col. Shelley Richardson, "There will be a host of giveaways and sweepstakes to include a cruise, a 50-inch wide screen TV, a diamond ring and a 2005 Chevy Cobalt."

"Local events will vary," said AAFES Europe's Senior Vice President Jack Morris. "Customers will see price cuts of \$1.10, prizes for the first 110 customers in the exchange and lots of prices of \$1.10 and \$110."

In Schinnen, Paul L. Onley, Jr., store manager said AAFES will offer door prizes for the first 50 customers, T-shirt giveaways and cake while it lasts.

In Chièvres, Belgium, Gary Harrison, assistant store manager said, in addition to an anniversary cake and T-shirt giveaways, the Chievres PX will feature door prizes every hour including a grand prize valued at \$1000; a mini essay contest; "what does the PX mean to me" (110 words or less); an 110th anniversary quiz, with questions on AAFES' history; a spring/summer fashion sale and special food promotions.

On July 25, 1895, the War Department directed post commanders to establish an exchange at every post where practicable. Since then, an exchange system has served side-by-side with Soldiers and, since 1947, Airmen in tents and trucks and in permanent facilities around the world.

Independence Day



Fireworks light up the sky above the SHAPE Healthcare Facility during Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Independence Day celebration July 2 commemorating the 229th year of American freedom.

(See additional photos, Page 4)

Story and photos by J.D. Hardesty

CASTEAU, Belgium — U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's military community celebrated the 229th year of American independence July 2 on SHAPE.

Highlighted by carnival rides, food, frolic and several types of music, this year's event "offered

something for people of all ages," said Harry Geeseman, community recreation officer for USAG Benelux's Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

With 21 contestants vying for prizes in the Karaoke competition, Randy Kwiatkowski, Kalei Anderson, Clare Frank, Hanna Flores and James Chestnut moved on to the finals. Flores, 4,

sang "The Star Spangled Banner" a cappella in the preliminaries and received a standing ovation. She sang "America the Beautiful" in the finals.

Approximately 1,500 people celebrated at the festival.

The \$5,000 fireworks display lasted 20 minutes and could be seen from several vantage points on SHAPE.

Partners in force protection deploy

By J.D. Hardesty

CHIEVRES, Belgium — Sgt. Michael Racy and his K-9 partner Cheyenne are headed to the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

They needn't be reminded of how critical their work is to the mission. London July 7, much like most terrorist attacks, emblazes into his cognizance the life or death importance of carrying out their mission.

Racy will replace Spec. Christopher Bond and his partner Blacky who will return to the Benelux after protecting port operations in the region since January.

Racy, Bond and their canine partners are members of the 230th Military Police Co., 95th MP Bn. -- an U.S. Army Europe asset supporting the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's force protection mission.

In addition to supporting Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and a few Army service members who are providing humanitarian aid in neighboring African countries and Operation



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Sgt. Michael Racy and Cheyenne team up for a force protection mission to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Both are from 230th Military Police Co., 95th MP Bn., who support U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's force protection mission.

Enduring Freedom logistical support from the port, Racy, who has served in the Army for 11 years, said he would also serve as the kennel noncommissioned

officer-in-charge and provide force protection for the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti.

See Racy, page 3



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

It's the middle of the summer, and high Permanent Change of Station season. Many of you who read this are living out of suitcases and boxes that you are either packing or unpacking, and you are in the middle of the throes of transition. The rest of us are there

Nowowiejski Notes

for you, either as sponsors or community members. I write this particular edition of Nowowiejski Notes with newcomers in mind.

First, let me mention our goals. We want you to get settled quickly with all the information you need to be happy here in the Benelux. With that in mind, please also understand that our recent effort has been to standardize the in-processing requirements across the services, so that there is a dependable common basis of equipping the newcomer with support and knowledge. We want all of you to know how to be safe on the roads, protected from terrorists and guarded against people who would steal your property. We also want you to thrive in the setting of your host nation, and to appreciate the opportunities that the Benelux provides.

Sometimes the information offered

a newcomer is so overwhelming, it seems like a deluge. Please let me offer a few suggestions. First, check the web page www.80asg.army.mil for day-to-day community information and useful links. No matter whether you live in Schinnen, Brussels, Rotterdam, or Chièvres, there is something there for you. Second, keep reading this newspaper. Third, please watch for a Newcomer's Edition of the "Benelux Link" which will be out by the end of July. We have suspended the normal editions in order to bring you this newcomer's edition. This is specifically designed for those who are in-processing and settling into our communities. Watch for it.

Last, I would suggest you pay a visit to your local Army Community Service office. Here's why. ACS is for all services here in the Benelux. They

probably have a program that is ideally suited for your personal or family need, but you don't know the details, and you will probably miss the flyer that announces the program. I suggest you ask according to your needs or interests. The array of programs offered by ACS is astounding, and hard to keep track of. You can get classes on most anything, and assistance as you are getting settled. You can link to your local Family Readiness Group there. If your spouse deploys while you are here, you will want to know about the facilities of the Yellow Ribbon Room. Finally, there is my favorite ACS program, Army Family Team Building, or as we refer to it here, American Forces Team Building. Look for a wide range of classes designed to make you self-sufficient beginning in the fall.

Bottom line: We have what you need. Take a moment to find the program that meets your need as you are getting settled.

AFAP general officer steering committee update

13 June 2005

Army Family Action Plan

General Officer Steering Committee

1. The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) met in May 2005 to provide direction and review the progress made on AFAP issues. The GOSC reviewed 28 issues from the November 2004 AFAP Conference. Of those issues, 15 remain active, 10 were considered complete, and 3 were determined to be unattainable. USAREUR submitted the following issues:

- Funding for Department of Defense Dependents Schools Summer School for Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. This is considered a completed issue.
- Calculation of Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance OCONUS. This issue remains active.
- 2. Listed below are the May 2005 GOSC recommendations for the top issues from the AFAP Conference. These issues remain active:
- Family Member Eyeglass Coverage. TRICARE currently has no eyeglass coverage for family members of active duty Soldiers and retirees. The GOSC recommended funding part of the cost for eyeglasses under TRICARE and outsourcing eyeglass fabrica-



Gen. B. B. Bell

tion through vendors at a reduced price. The committee also recommended having military laboratories provide Frame of Choice Program services at cost.

- Expiration of TRICARE Referral Authorizations. TRICARE automatically cancels the initial referral authorization when the beneficiary is unable to get an appointment with a specialty clinic or health-care provider within 28 days. The GOSC recommended eliminating the automatic cancellation.
- Childcare Fee Category. Families with significant income differences are paying the same fee within each childcare category. The GOSC recommended increasing the number of categories to reduce the financial variance within each category. The committee also recommended increasing the number of fee ranges to reflect the new categories while maintaining the existing fee-range parameters.

· Leave Accrual. Increased mission requirements allow little opportunity for Soldiers to use accrued leave. The GOSC recommended allowing Soldiers to accumulate and carry up to 90 days of leave until their expiration term of service.

3. Although Army families are strong and resilient, the Global War on Terrorism presents constant challenges for them and for Army family readiness programs. The AFAP continues to meet these challenges by adopting new strategies to help families stay strong. I encourage you to be a part of the AFAP process and help make our great Army even better. Contact your Base Support Battalion or Area Support Group for more details on the AFAP.

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commanding

Gas prices soar in Benelux

By J.D. Hardesty

Gas prices jumped 14 percent in Belgium and one percent in the Netherlands in July, according to an Army and Air Force Exchange Service announcing overseas fuel prices for those assigned in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Azores, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

The new overseas fuel prices went into effect July 1.

AAFES does not dispense fuel in Belgium. Fuel cards are purchased from Fina and resold to personnel with ration cards supporting the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe/NATO community. Fina 200-liter fuel cards in Belgium climbed to \$127.09 for unleaded grade 95, a jump of 28 cents per gallon. Other fuel card increases include \$133.42 for super unleaded grade 98, also a 28 cents per gallon hike; and 141.08 for diesel fuel, a 26-cent increase per gallon. After a slight drop in prices in June, comparative per gallon prices in Belgium rose for the fifth time in six months to \$2.40, \$2.52 and \$2.67 respectively. Prices have risen more than 25 percent for petrol fuels and 19 percent for diesel since February.

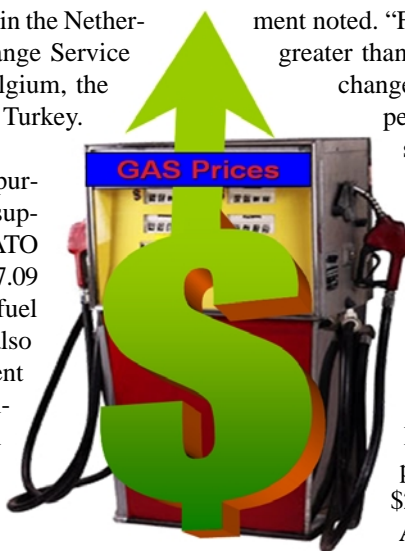
In the Netherlands, fuel sell prices for all grades including diesel were set at

the "floor" selling price, per AAFES Board of Directors policy, the announcement noted. "Floor" prices occur when the cost of fuel plus dispensing costs is greater than the Department of Energy average plus dispensing costs. Exchange customers filling up their gas tanks in the Netherlands saw super-unleaded fuel jump four cents to \$2.498 per gallon, the price for super-plus unleaded increased six cents to \$2.743 per gallon, and the price for diesel fuel climbed 18 cents to \$2.634 per gallon.

In Germany, the AAFES per gallon prices climbed: unleaded - \$2.306; super-unleaded fuel - \$2.404, super plus - \$2.500, diesel - \$2.425. AAFES' customers in the United Kingdom saw prices increase to \$2.372 a gallon for super-unleaded fuel. Diesel fuel customers' costs rose to \$2.282 per gallon.

Elsewhere in Europe, AAFES reported gas price increases in the Azores for super plus unleaded jumped to \$2.448 per gallon. In Turkey, prices for super plus rose to \$2.470 per gallon while the prices for super-unleaded fuel coupons and diesel will remain at \$2.340 and \$2.280 respectively.

AAFES uses U.S. average fuel prices as an index to set its overseas prices.



Caserne Daumerie’s gate opens

By J.D. Hardesty

Caserne Daumerie opened its new \$1.5 million, technology-based, force protection gate July 8.

“I think yesterday (the bombings in London) demonstrates what we are doing here,” said Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, commander of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. “I wish we didn’t have a gate here and people could come and go like they did 30 years ago, but it’s just not that way anymore. We live in a post 9/11 environment and, if you think about it, we have been living with global terrorism for a long time.

“There is a lot of technology here, built to industrial standards that will last,” he said. “Just think of how many times these barrier arms will go up and down.”

Nowowiejski acknowledged all the contractors and laborers who worked on the 15-month project that began in March 2004 and the partnership we have with the security guards standing watch providing a safe work place.

“What is important is the gate not be seen as a symbol of a fortress or a bunker,” he said. “It is a symbol of partnership between America and our host nation where terrorism is a real threat and force protection is a requirement.”



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Yves Brepols is the first driver to enter through Caserne Daumerie’s new \$1.5 million gate that took 15 months to complete. Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, commander of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, explained the high technology entryway “is a symbol of partnership between America and our host nation where terrorism is a real threat and force protection is a requirement.”

Racy from Page 1

“I raised my hand and volunteered to fill the slot,” Racy said. “I always knew I was going to deploy when I became a dog handler in April 2004.

“It’s not uncommon for us to serve a ‘purple force’ as a dog handler,” he said of protecting military troops from nearly every service branch. “It’s not the color of the uniform, it’s the mission that’s essential.”

“This deployment is important to me because I will be supporting Operation Enduring Freedom,” he said.

“Supplies fly in and out of that area to service members downrange. While I won’t be directly involved sending supplies to support downrange operations to a specific region, my job is to protect supplies and make sure no foreign entities gain access to where supplies could be compromised.”

This is Racy’s second deployment to a major operation; his first was to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“Working in a K-9 unit is much different than being a line MP, where you don’t know what the work schedule

will be like and you have to following rules that are always changing,” he said. “As a dog handler, you know what your mission is going to be, when and where to go. As part of the Army’s canine corps, it is important to know your job, know your dog, and continue to focus that an entire installation’s work force and their families’ lives are in your control.”

Cheyenne, his partner for 13 months, serves for the safety of the entire community and carries a rank one above his handler. Cheyenne

doesn’t get promoted unless Racy gets promoted.

“Cheyenne is trained for at least 10 explosive scents and patrol response,” he explained. “If he identifies a possible problem, we call in an explosive ordnance disposal team to further investigate the situation.”

Unlike when most Soldiers leave after a normal duty day, Racy’s duty day is extended another three to four hours meeting Cheyenne’s bathing, veterinary visit, food, water needs, along with frequent walks and exercise.”



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
July 25	Aug. 5	Aug. 22	Sept. 2	Sept. 26	Oct. 7	Oct. 24	Nov. 4
Aug. 8	Aug. 19	Sept. 6	Sept. 16	Oct. 11	Oct. 21	Nov. 7	Nov. 18

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
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J.D. Hardesty	Writer
Sylvia Bowron	Writer



Celebrating Freedom



229th American Independence Day

From top clockwise:

Morale Recreation and Welfare's July 4th celebration offered several carnival rides for youth of all ages.

Hanna Flores, 4, sings "America the Beautiful" during the finals of the Karaoke contest.

Megan DuMond, 3, steadies herself before jumping down the inflatable slide.

Lindsey Charbart, 13, is sling-shotted high above the festival grounds on the Aero-benji.

Don Reichert gives a child a ride on the back of his Harley-Davidson.

Kalei Anderson sings to the crowd during her Karaoke finals competition winning performance.



PHOTOS: J.D. Hardesty

USAG Brussels Tri-Mission News

Brussels American School

Class of 2005 graduates 17 students

By Brenda Quinn

BRUSSELS - The 2005 graduating class of Brussels American School, a senior class of 17 which includes students from Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and the United States, received their diplomas in the historic setting of the Gothic Room of the Hôtel de Ville in the Grand' Place of Brussels.

Principal Deborah M. Berry welcomed the families and friends of the class with warm remarks about lessons learned from each of the graduates. The class was awarded over 1.6 million dollars of scholarships. All of the graduates of this year's class will continue their education at a four-year institution.

Student Council President and Class of 2005 Valedictorian, Rebecca Wilson gave the speech reflecting on the events of their high school years. She spoke of how going to BAS prepared them to live with each other in a world of safety and peace.

"Living in the capital of Europe shows this class that history is the memory of things said and done," she said. Being in the shadow of NATO taught the graduates that history is



Rebecca Wilson
Valedictorian

a reality and that actions and words do matter. The community has set an example for the graduates and raised the standard for their achievements. She promised to honor those in their past and their example "is something for which all the graduates strive."

Salutatorian and Class President

Clarissa Bottesini spoke on how simple it was when they were younger to pick a career and the effort it will take now to select and actually see their selection through to fruition.

"This class has big dreams and will succeed through sheer determination. They accept who they are and who they are becoming," she said. The graduates have all had to make transitions in life and have adjusted and survived. As they venture toward college they will adjust again as their lives and experiences change. She reminded the graduates to be realistic with their goals and to look with optimism to the future.

Chelsea Blandford spoke to her senior classmates



Clarissa M. Bottesini
Salutatorian

Brussels American School Graduation Class of 2005

Senior graduate

Kamilla Anarbaeva
Matthew R. Arens
Chelsea K. Blandford
Clarissa M. Bottesini
Dylan M. Deverill
Nicoletta C. Dimova
Amy E. Exner
Kevin W. Fancher
Whitney M. Hennes
Nicole M. Herway
Bryan N. Isbell
Michael E. Moyseowicz
Tinatin Mzarelua
Institute
Lonnie M. Ruffin
Brianna B. Strauch
Jacob A. Williamson
Rebecca D. Wilson

Higher education plans

American Institute of Kyrgyzstan
New York University
Mary Washington
Boston University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Norwich
Christopher Newport University
Bowling Green State University
University of Southern Florida
Brigham Young University
Truman University
Coast Guard Academy
International Management
Liberty College
University of Oregon
Air Force Academy
William and Mary University

about making a difference in each other and in the world.

"Each experience and adventure lead us down a path of understanding about his or her self," she said. She reminded her classmates how they are better for having met each other and to believe that they can and will make a difference in the world. "Each of the graduates should enjoy not just who they were, but who they are and who they are to become."

Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon, the U.S. Marine Corps representative to NATO, delivered the graduation address to the seniors.

He acknowledged the family, friends, and teachers who have supported these graduates.

"In a world of change all of us need a foundation upon which we can always rely," he said. "These are

the family that should not be taken for granted and to know that they are always behind them, the unlimited friends that are the greatest resources of their lives and the importance of keeping in touch with them, faith in self and those surrounding us, and knowing values and never compromising them."

Seniors Nicoletta Dimova and Amy Exner sang Mariah Carey's "Hero" to remind the graduates that the hero does indeed lie within each of them.

Senior Class Scholarships

As of June 10, graduation the following students at Brussels American School had been collectively awarded scholarships and financial compensation over 1.6 million dollars. The following scholarships were granted:

Reese Bottesini over \$250,000 at a variety of institutions

Nicoletta Dimova \$78,000 from Norwich

Kevin Fancher \$10,400 from Bowling Green University

Brian Isbell \$32,000 from Truman University

Michael Moyseowicz accepted \$300,000 for the Coast Guard Academy and was offered \$300,000 at the Naval Academy

Lonnie Ruffin \$32,000 from Liberty University

Brianna Strauch \$1,500

Jacob Williamson \$300,000 for the Air Force Academy

Becky Wilson \$250,000 at a variety of institutions
Local scholarships totaling over \$22,000 were given: \$7,000 from the BAS PTSO, \$1,000 from the Booster Club and the Milan family, \$6,000 from the Brussels Consignment Shop, \$3,500 from Phi Delta Kappa, \$700 from the local Brussels military police, \$2,000 from Faith Outreach Ministries, \$500 from ARMAF-B and each graduate received a book scholarship from the senior class.

USAG Brussels Calendar

Metro Madness Outing to learn to use the public transport system to travel around the Brussels Capital Region July 20, 9:25 a.m.-2:30 p.m., ACS, NSA Bldg. 4. Limited to 10 people. Sign up at DSN 368-9783.

Newcomer's Briefing, July 18-19. For info call DSN: 368-9783.

Army Career and Alumni Program, Aug. 2-3, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at NSA, Bldg. 4, conference room. ACAP is open to all military members, their spouses, and civilian members contemplating leaving government service. For info call DSN 423-4904 or 368-9783.

Teen Pottery Camp at the NSA Multi Crafts Center starting on August 3, 4 (and every Wednesday and Thursday until Aug. 18) from 2-5 p.m., Info at DSN 368-9629

Kids Art Camp, every Friday from Aug. 5-Aug. 26, 10a.m. - 1 p.m., NSA Multi Crafts Center (reg-

istration required). Info: DSN 368-9629.

Special Topics Workshop: Creating your Digital Scrapbook on Aug. 20 from 2-5 p.m. (registration required) at NSA Multi Crafts Center, DSN 368-9629.

Three Star Lounge Events:

Aug 5 Right Arm Night from 5-7 p.m., Aug 13 Family Karaoke Night from 8 p.m.-midnight,.

Information

Flea Market Guidebook have arrived at ACS, NSA Bldg. 4 top floor. The 2005 guide is complimentary to the Braderies and Brocantes around Belgium.

Sponsorship Training: One-on-one sponsorship training is available or training is available by going to the S-Gate sponsor training website at <https://www.sponsor-training.hqusareur.army.mil>.

This site provides training for first time sponsors, as well as, good resources for trained sponsors.



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News

Two USAG Schinnen services receive accreditation



Boys at SAS Summer Camp paint rocks for a project for the weeks theme "Shoot for the Moon".

Story and Photo by Sylvia Bowron

In June, U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, School Age Services (SAS) and Army Community Services (ACS) programs, received accreditation of the services they provide to service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families. The accreditation process ensures that the same high quality of service is provided by these organizations Army-wide.

The National After School Association sent a team to examine the SAS program, and a team from the Installation Management Agency-Europe (IMA-E) did a comprehensive inspection of ACS programs.

"The Army's goal is to have 100 percent of school age programs accredited," said Joanne Hernandez, Child and Youth Services coordinator. The SAS program

is the first program here to be accredited by the NAA.

"The NAA is a civilian organization and the accrediting group for all military and non-military school age programs," said Hernandez. "Additional programs here have had their visits by an NAA team and are waiting for the final decision," she added.

"It's a rigorous accreditation," said Lee Groce, director of SAS. "In March 2004 Ann Weber, the previous CYS coordinator, Geoffrey Schlottman, training and programming specialist for CYS, and I met with Lt. Col. Richard Richardson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Schinnen and explained the accreditation process and all that was entailed," said Groce. "He told us once we had formalized a plan to return. We began the re-

quired self-study to identify program strengths and areas for improvement and examined all aspects of SAS," said Groce. "We formed a self-improvement plan. Staff members, families and children formed the evaluation team and the process was done through surveys and meetings," he said.

Groce and Schlottman, worked together on the accreditation assessment plan. "We presented our final plan to the commander and received end-of-year money to procure needed items for our program and for training."

Improvements made and training administered, the self-study packet was submitted to the NAA. "Two endorsers, one from the U.S., and one from Europe, came April 25-26, to rate the SAS program based on 36 'Keys to Quality'," said Groce.

"This accreditation is the NAA stamp of approval of our SAS program," Groce said. "To the parents of children using SAS that means they can rest assured that their children are receiving the highest quality care that can be provided. And we are proud to be the first SAS program in the U.S. Army Garrison, Benelux, to be accredited."

According to Raquel Cajudo, director of Army Community Services, Schinnen, all ACS programs provide the same basic services. However, in the past, the quality of delivery varied from place to place based on funding and staffing capabilities.

"Now for Army Community Services worldwide, accreditation is a standard of operation," said Cajudo. "The ac-

creditation consists of criteria and processes to measure quality of life service delivery. It is necessary to standardize the quality of service delivered in all ACSs worldwide," she said.

"This ensures that a Soldier and their family receive the same quality of life services, based on standards set by the Army, as the Soldier moves from installation to installation."

The process started in February 2004, with a pre-inspection and from Nov. 24 to Dec. 3, 2004, a team of five program managers came from IMA-E for the final inspection "All ACS program managers were involved in the inspection," said Cajudo, "and all 10 basic programs and services were inspected."

"It entailed 5 eight-hour days of comprehensive review of over 200 standards from ACS center operations, administration, structure, management, program implementation, record keeping and handicapped accessibility," said Cajudo. "They inspected the building and files, and observed the daily operations of the center, looking for standards that were met and not met."

"The final inspection was completed on March 30. Now, we are waiting for our accreditation certificate from Headquarters, Department of Army," said Cajudo.

The accreditation of USAG Schinnen SAS and ACS programs ensures that each organization meets the standards that are indicative of the quality service they provide to the Soldiers, DOD civilians and family members of USAG Schinnen and the Tri-Border area.

Utility bills, mobile phone contracts cause PCSing Soldier's problems

Living overseas is quite a bit different than living in the states. There are a lot of different laws and regulations that we have to become accustomed to while living here in the Netherlands. Consider utility bills and mobile phone contracts for instance.

Many Soldiers don't understand why they still owe money on a final, year-end bill when they have already paid their monthly advance payments and The Netherlands Law Center often counsels people concerning their high utility bills.

Frequently cumulative late fees result in high utility bills. The utility companies charge late fees (referred to as 'aanmaningskosten' or 'administratiekosten') which is normal under the general terms of the contract. Unless the fees are wrongfully imposed (i.e. the initial payment was in time) or the costs were already paid, they can't be contested.

As a result, The Netherlands Law Cen-

ter cannot help a Soldier where late fees are imposed in accordance with the terms of the contract. It's very important that Soldiers and Department of Defense personnel check their bills carefully and ensure advance payments are paid in time. To help you know the exact extent of the bill and to make timely payments, have the bills translated by a friend, translator or through the Headquarters U.S. Army Europe One Source translation service at (<http://www.per.hqusaer.army.mil/familyfocus/?familyFocusLocation=/pages/aostrans/aostrans.htm>). Be sure to keep all correspondence for future reference. For questions regarding utilities, contact the housing office or The Netherlands Law Center for assistance.

Now, what about that great phone you have that takes pictures, one touch service to the web and email, serves as an organizer as well as a phone. Cheap? Well, when entering into an agreement with a Dutch mobile phone company,

most service members don't take into account the possibility of an early transfer to another duty station outside of The Netherlands. Dutch contract law doesn't contain a military clause, so terminating a contract will be difficult, if not impossible to do.

The general terms of the contract, which is the largest part of the agreement, provide that contracts are ended after a specific amount of time both parties have agreed to (which clients do by entering into the agreement). These 'general' terms also provide that termination of a contract during the time agreed on by both parties, is only possible in limited cases such as death, change of tariffs or absence of services. In all other cases, termination is possible only if the provider agrees. The mobile phone provider may ask that certain conditions are met before agreeing to terminate the contract; or, they may not agree at all. In that case, the contract remains in force.

Service members should be cautioned that Dutch contracts of a short duration are difficult to terminate, as Dutch law doesn't have a military clause. Before entering a contract, members are advised to consider contracts for as short a period as possible (regularly one year), limiting the possible consequences if you receive an early PCS.

If you have any questions about utility bills, phone contracts or other concerns while here in the Netherlands, be sure to contact the Netherlands Law Center in Treebeek at DSN 364-6204/CML +31-(0)45-563-6204.

A friendly reminder



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News

Tri-Border community celebrates 229th Independence Day



Cloudy skies and a light drizzle didn't keep more than 2,500 members of the Tri-Border community from enjoying the Independence Day celebration held July 2 at the Joint Forces Command Sports Field in Brunssum.

The celebration was the combined effort of the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, Joint Forces Command, Brunssum and NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen communities.

Festivities started at 1 p.m. featuring activities for both children and adults. There was plenty of food, refreshments, games, bingo, and live entertainment.

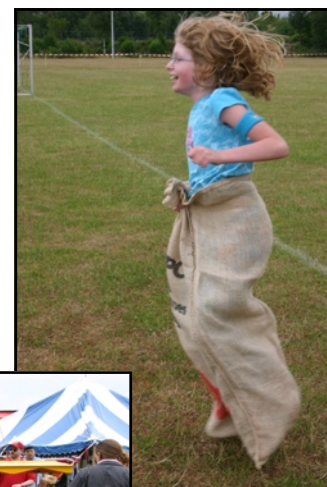
The water balloon toss and sack races were enjoyed by both children and adults and the bouncy slide was a

hit for children of all ages. Younger children enjoyed the swing carousel and riding cars and motorcycles with a parent or older sibling.

There were several artists on hand for the face painting booth which stayed busy all day long.

Several bands played throughout the day and evening.

Shortly after dark, there was a 20-minute mini-fireworks display with music to end the day's festivities. "It was the first true mixture of three communities partnering under one umbrella, mixing all their individual resources to make one great event to celebrate our Independence Day" said Wayne Bardell, director of community activities, USAG Schinnen.



Photos: Sylvia Bowron

Swimming, recreational water safety a priority

School is out, vacations begin and the lazy days of summer fun are here again. In the midst of all the fun, don't forget safety. The U.S. Army Garrison stresses summer safety guide lines which apply to all Army personnel, Department of Army civilians and family members and reference "U.S. Army Europe Pam 385-5" on Summer Safety and "Pam 385-2" on Recreational Water Safety.

Soldiers, civilians and family members must follow these guidelines when participating in water activities in the Netherlands.

Swimming is only authorized in approved areas/facilities. Swimming areas/facilities are approved when there are qualified lifeguards on duty. The lifeguards possess a current American Red Cross (ARC) Advanced Lifesaving Certificate or ARC Water Safety Instructor Certification or equivalent Dutch certification and sufficient life saving equipment, communications equipment, first aid facilities, protective devices, etc., is available.

protective devices, etc., is available.

All public or private swimming pools (including hotel and motel pools used with the permission of the management) are authorized swimming areas. Adult supervision of small children is required.

Supervised ocean and sea beaches may be used for swimming and sun bathing unless specifically placed off-limits by the local commanders or local officials for reasons of health or safety.

Swimming in lakes is approved when there is a designated swimming area and there is an on-duty lifeguard and established hours of operation posted and enforced. Rivers will not be used as swimming areas.

Think safety this summer when out swimming and boating. Remember to swim in only authorized swimming areas and ensure that everyone knows safe swimming and boating rules and follows them. While swimming in approved swim areas or swimming fa-



cility, remember that you, family members and your guests need to use proper and safe behavior and parents must provide supervision of young children at all times.

For more information, contact the Safety Office at DSN 360-7270 or 0031 (0)46 443-7270.



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News

Photo Lab grand opening

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen celebrates the grand opening of the Schinnen Photo Lab July 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Currently, service members in the Tri-border area travel two hours to U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Chièvres, Belgium to have official photos made. The new facility located in Treebeek, the Netherlands will offer service every other Wednesday. For more information call 360-7544.

New changes on reissue of lost ID cards

Lost your U.S. identification card? A new directive has been issued and changes have been made on how to get a new one after it is lost.

Effective June 23, when a U.S. ID card is lost, a memorandum of record signed by the sponsor's first chain of command will be required by the Provost Marshal Office prior to a case being opened. The ID cards section at JFC Brunssum or in Rotterdam will not replace an ID card with out having proof that an MP case has been opened.

There is a specific format for the memorandum and PMO has an example for anyone who needs it. For more information call PMO at DSN 360- 7323/7535 or Comm. 0031 (0)46 443-7323/7535.



JFC Alliance Theater

July 15, 7:30 p.m. *A Lot Like Love*. Starring Ashton Kutcher, Amanda Peet. Rated PG-13. 107 min. Oliver and Emily met on a flight from L.A. to New York seven years ago, each declaring that they were wrong for each other. As they each search for love, it takes seven years for Oliver and Emily to figure out that maybe they really have something...a lot like love.

July 16, 4 p.m. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Starring Martin Freeman, Mos Def. Rated PG. 103 min. Earthman Arthur Dent is having a very bad day. Planet Earth is about to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Arthur's only chance for survival-hitch a ride on a passing spacecraft.

7 p.m. *House of Wax*. Starring Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray. Rated R. 110 min. A group of friends on their way to a college football game falls prey to a pair of murderous brothers in an abandoned small town. They discover that the brothers have expanded upon the area's main attraction, the House of Wax. Now the group must find a way out before they too become permanent exhibits in the House of Wax.

July 22, 7:30 p.m. *Kingdom of Heaven*. Starring Orland Bloom, Eva Green. Rated R. 145 min. Bailan is mourning the deaths of his wife and baby when his father arrives and asks him to join the Crusades in Jerusalem. Bailan agrees, and embarks on the perilous

journey.

July 23, 4 p.m. *Monster in Law*. Starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda. Rated PG-13. 96 min. Unlucky in love, beautiful "Charlie" has finally met the man of her dreams, Dr. Kevin Fields. There's just one problem, his mother Viola, who decides to break up the happy couple by becoming the world's worst mother-in-law. It looks like Viola has finally met her match when Charlie finally decides to fight back.

7 p.m. XXX: *State of the Union*. Starring Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson. Rated PG-13. 153 min. NSA Agent Augustus Gibbons, fresh off the success of his last renegade recruitment, once again finds himself in need of an outsider.

July 29, 7:30 p.m. *Mindhunters*. Starring Val Kilmer, LL Cool J. Rated R. 106 min. On a remote island, the FBI has a training program for their psychological profiling division, called 'Mindhunters'. The training goes horribly wrong, when a group of seven young agents discover that one of them is a serial killer.

July 30, 4 p.m. *Unleashed*. Starring Jet Li, Morgan Freeman. Rated R. 103 min. Danny has been kept as a prisoner by his 'Uncle' Bart since boyhood. Danny knows little of life, except the brutal existence that Bart has so crudely and cruelly fashioned for him.

7 p.m. *Monster in Law*. Starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda. Rated PG-13. 96 min. See above.

Grill steaks to perfection

By Kay Blakley

DeCA Europe Consumer Advocate

In the mood for a grilled-to-perfection, melt-in-your mouth steak, but suspect you need a bit of brushing up in the grill skills department? Just review the following tips before taking the plunge, and you'll be a "grill master" in no time.

Start with the right steak — T-bone and porterhouse steaks are probably what come to mind for most people, when you think of grilling. But other, sometimes less expensive cuts like chuck eye, top sirloin, top loin (strip) steaks, and rib eye steaks are perfectly suited to grilling as well.

Make sure the fire is right — high heat makes tough meat, no matter what cut you're using. Start the fire about 30 minutes before you're ready to cook to allow time for the coals to reach just the right stage. You'll know you're there, when the majority of coals have a light covering of gray ash over a deep red glow. The meat should gently sizzle as it hits the grill. If you get a ferocious sizzle, or a flare-up of flames, move the steak off to the side, spread out the coals a bit, then move the steak back over the coals.

Turn with tongs instead of a fork — Despite what you may have seen others do, resist the urge to puncture that precious steak with a fork as you turn it to grill the other side. You want every drop of moisture to remain inside the steak — not dripping down into the fire through the drainage holes you made with a turning fork! Turn with a pair of tongs instead.

Time it to the right degree of doneness — You've seen people slice open the center of a steak to check for doneness, but don't you do it! You'll lose even more moisture this way than turning with a fork. Use the timing chart instead. It's amazingly accurate. If you like your steak well done, move it off to the side, away from direct heat, for the last few minutes of cooking time. It's still in a warm enough environment to

keep cooking, but won't be as likely to toughen from long heat exposure.

Keep your eye on the grill — If you are the sole cook, prepare the side dishes and set the table before the steaks go on the fire, so your undivided attention can be focused on the grill. If you're not there to take appropriate action, "perfectly grilled" can turn to "burned to a crisp" in just a matter of minutes.

Be sure to treat any steak with respect during storage, thawing, and cooking — I'm sure you know, none of them come cheap these days! Thaw frozen steaks in the refrigerator overnight, and bring to room temperature by letting them set on the kitchen counter for about 30 minutes before they go on the grill. Some grilling experts believe this warm-up is essential to full flavor development. This does not apply to hamburgers, though. Ground beef at room temperature is likely to fall apart on the grill, so keep it refrigerated until the coals are ready.

Cook steaks on a moderately hot fire; be careful to avoid overcooking, and let the steaks rest on a warm plate for about five minutes to allow the juices to re-distribute evenly throughout, before serving.

Steak cooking guide

Rare

	1 st Side	2 nd Side
1" thick	2	3
1 1/2" thick	5	6
2" thick	7	8

Medium

	1 st Side	2 nd Side
1" thick	4	4
1 1/2" thick	7	8
2" thick	9	9

Well Done

	1 st Side	2 nd Side
1" thick	5	6
1 1/2" thick	9	10
2" thick	10	11

Commissary grand re-opening set

The Schinnen Commissary grand re-opening will take place July 22, at 9:30 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony and music provided by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe International Band.

The store will open its doors at 10 a.m. for customers to see the newly remodeled store.

There will be free coffee, drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs and cake for everyone. Customers are invited to come and register for free giveaways donated by various vendors.

Maintaining auto insurance during shipment important

Many personnel departing Europe make a substantial investment in a new car. Taking advantage of a tax-free purchase, a stronger dollar and the elimination of U.S. customs restrictions on the importation of foreign manufactured autos, all add to the appeal of starting a new duty assignment with a new car. As a result, there is an increase in new car shipments back to the United States. Shippers need to be aware of the financial risks involved in protecting their auto investments.

Many models, whether of U.S. or foreign manufacture, are purchased at prices considerably in excess of \$20,000. This is a critical figure for a shipper to consider when preparing for a permanent change of station auto shipment to the states. The U.S. Army Claims Service imposes a maximum allowance on certain types of claims and certain categories of property. For a car lost or damaged in shipment the maximum allowance is \$20,000. For many shippers, if a vehicle loss occurred, this amount would not be sufficient to purchase a similarly priced replacement vehicle. In fact, it may not even pay off the existing lien on the lost car.

Contractor liability for the loss of a vehicle in shipment is also \$20,000. However, if the government has already paid the claim, then the government, in effect, becomes the first lien holder against the contractor's liability and the owner is precluded from further recovery against the contractor. The owner cannot "stack claims" against the government and the contractor to increase his recovery for the loss.

Private insurance coverage normally provides the protection that the claims system lacks. Unfortunately, many shippers cancel their private insurance during maritime shipment and, therefore, lose this protection. Canceling the liability portion of the insurance policy makes economic sense, but canceling the comprehensive coverage may expose the shipper to risk. Each shipper must evaluate the market value of his or her car and any lien outstanding against it. If the shipper is sure that the value of the car is adequately protected by the Army claims system, then an informed decision can be to cancel comprehensive insurance.



PHOTO: Courtesy Navy Military Sealift Command

In addition to the maximum allowance of \$20,000 on the loss of a vehicle, other maximum allowance limitations exist for auto accessories. All audio equipment, to include a burglar alarm system, is subject to a maximum allowance of \$750. Tools, suitable for roadside repair, are limited to \$200. Some items are

not payable at all. Army Claims Service policy deems radar detectors to be not reasonable or useful. Army claims Service policy also precludes payment for detachable audio equipment due to ease of pilferage. The Military Traffic Management Com-

mand policy precludes shipment of VCRs or TVs unless factory installed. Shipment of CB radios in POVs is prohibited by MTMC and USAREUR policy. In general, private insurance would pay at least the depreciated value for all these items. The test for private insurance adjudication is whether the item was intended for use in the car or whether it works off the power of the car.

If a shipper is a victim of the \$20,000 limitation for the loss of a vehicle, Claims Service policy does allow a "good cause" waiver of the maximum allowance, however, it requires fact specific findings which seldom exist. Economic loss is not a reason to establish a good cause waiver. A good cause waiver would require circumstances beyond the foreseeable risks of maritime transport; e.g. civil insurrection. Substantiated misinformation by government personnel, resulting in the failure to maintain adequate insurance coverage, may also be a good cause waiver. However, in view of the written and verbal counseling involved in transportation entitlements this would be very difficult to prove.

In the final analysis, it is up to every shipper to determine the value of the auto being shipped and recognize the limits Claims Service policies impose on compensation. If there is potential exposure to financial loss, beyond that compensated for my regulation, then the shipper needs to maintain comprehensive insurance during maritime transport. For further information, please contact the Claims Office at the Northern Law Center, Bldg 318 on SHAPE, or call DSN 423-4061 / commercial 065/44.40.61.

Protecting property during PCS moves

The Northern Law Center Claims Office reminds you to prepare for your next PCS move. Documentation of ownership is essential to ensure that you are fully reimbursed for damage or loss to personal property during a PCS move.

The military claims system has limitations and does not provide full insurance coverage. For information on how you can protect yourself during your next PCS move, contact the Northern Law Center Claims Office at DSN 423-4061, civilian 065/44.40.61, or visit our website at: <http://www.80asg.army.mil/sites/installation/legal.asp>

SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

Chièvres Library Summer Reading Program, thru July 29. Story Time every Thursday, 4:30-5 p.m., Creative Critters program for ages 4-8 every Friday 10-11:30 a.m. Info: DSN 361-5767.

Prime Time Lounge: R&B Night with DJ Boggie every Saturday from 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$3 cover charge. Info: DSN 361-5540.

Learning About Belgium, Aug. 1, 2 and 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at SHAPE IC Club. Please, no children under 12 years. Sign up at DSN 423-4269.

Army Career and Alumni Program, August 2-3 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at NSA Conference Room, Bldg. 2. Details at DSN 423-4904 or 368-9735.

Special Summer Cultural Adaptation Trip: The Spirit of Belgium, offered by ACS Relocation August 6, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. For info and registration call DSN 423-4332.

Summer Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 years through 5th grade hosted by the SHAPE & Daumerie Protestant and Catholic Communities. SHAPE International School Cafeteria, Aug. 8-12, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Info call 065-44-6066.

Running Track Off Limits: Since June 29, for approximately three weeks, the outdoor running track on Chièvres Air Base is closed and off limits while construction is completed. For info call DPW at 361-5551/5292 or call GSM 0474 88 4214.

Guys and Dolls Theatre Camp: SHAPE Entertainment Center, Aug. 8-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Theatre Camp ends on Aug. 19 with Guys and Dolls Jr. performance at 7:30 p.m. Info at DSN 423-3312.

ACS Newcomers Brief: Aug. 10, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch provided. The Newcomers Brief provides information about housing, moving, security, emergency numbers, etc. in your new community.

Job opportunities/ Volunteers needed

MWR is hiring personnel for *Chièvres Boarding Kennel*. Info: DSN 361-5781 to apply.

Army Community Service Office on SHAPE is hiring a *Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service (SITES) Manager* to provide assistance to the Relocation Readiness Program Manager. For info, contact the ACS Relocation Program Manager at DSN 423-4332.

The BENELUX-wide Command Master Religious Program for Fiscal Year 2006 may award nonpersonal service contracts for the following services:

Service(s)	Supporting
Parish Coordinator	SHAPE, Catholic Parish
Religious Ed Coord(s)	SHAPE, JFC, NSA Chièvres
Musician(s)(Organist/Pianist/Choir Dir.)	SHAPE, JFC, NSA, Daumerie
Catholic Priest Coverage	SHAPE & JFC
Watch Care Services	SHAPE, NSA, JFC, Chièvres
Part time Secretary	CMD Chaplain, SHAPE

Those interested in volunteering or to bid on a contract, a response form is available from any Chaplain. Mail completed form to the Chaplain Resource Manager (CRM) at Daumerie Caserne at Box 2233, APO AE 09708. Info: DSN 361-5888 or civilian: 068.27.5888.

SHAPE Girl Scouts needs adult volunteers to be leaders, co-leaders and committee members for the 2005-2006 season. Contact shapegsa@yahoo.com for info.